Payment of Dividend by HUDCO

2782. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether HUDCO has been paying annual dividend to the Union Government regularly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c). HUDCO has been paying dividend regularly to the Government since 1992-93, when profit-making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) were asked to pay the divident to the Government. The details of dividends paid from 1992-93 to 1994-95 are as under :

Year	Divident Paid (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	10.1
1993-84	14.41
1994-95	16.11

HUDCO has, however not been able to pay divident for the year 1995-96 on the profits earned by it so far due to the fact that it has to comply with the statutory requirement of Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) guidelines for creation of required quantum of Debenture Redemption Reserve.

Technology Development Board

2783. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received encouraging response for R & D projects from Technology Development Board (TDB);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;

(c) the funds sought and allocated during the current year;

(d) the steps initiated to ensure best use of the available funds for promotion of R & D in priority areas;

(e) whether the Government are considering augmentation of allocation for R & D schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI. YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 18 proposals pertaining to various sectors such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, waste utilization, transportation, oil processing, electronics have been received by Technology Development Board (TDB) so far.

(c) Allocation of Rs. 30 crores has been made for the current year against the demand of Rs. 20 crores.

(d) A two pronged approach comprising development of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology for wider domestic applications for utilising the available funds is being pursued.

(e) and (f). Allocation for R & D schemes such as Science and Engineering Research Council, Instrument Development Programme, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences are being augmented during the 9th Plan.

Housing Board

2784. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian National Rural Labour Federation has applied for setting up of a Housing Board exclusively for agricultural workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Statue of Chatrapati Shivaji

2785. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether the Government propose to take any action to make free the statue of Chatrapati Shivaji erected at Sahar Airport, as the statue is kept under constant observation, considering the sentiments of the local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : The Sahar Airport area does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Central P.W.D. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has intimated that the information is awaited from the Airports Authority of India which controls the Mumbai Airport. The information will be laid on the Table of the Sabha on its receipt.

Unauthorised Construction

2786. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 66 dated November 20, 1996 regarding unauthorised construction and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite official orders, the unauthorised construction in Government flats and